

NEWS RELEASE

Idaho Department of Water Resources



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NEEM RECOGNIZES IDAHO'S MANUFACTURED HOME BUILDERS

Five Idaho companies received achievement awards during the manufactured home industry's regional home show in Salem, Ore., on March 2-6.

The awards recognize the top manufacturers and retailers of manufactured homes built during 2004 under the Northwest Energy Efficient Manufactured Home (NEEM™) program in Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

Champion Homes of Weiser received both manufacturing awards for the third year in a row for producing the highest percentage of energy-efficient homes of the five Idaho manufacturers and producing the highest number of NEEM Program homes.

The 2005 awards for top retailer sales of energy-efficient manufactured homes in Idaho were presented to **Ranch Manufactured Homes, Idaho Falls**, gold; **Peters Homes, Post Falls**, silver; and **Independence Homes, Sagle**, bronze. All three retailers have been NEEM program partners with the Energy Division for many years and are among Idaho's top manufactured home retailers. Ranch Homes has received the gold award for the past three years. Peters Homes is also a past award recipient.

In addition, **Kit Home Builders West, LLC, Caldwell**, is the recipient of the Most Improved Technical Award for 2004. The award was given to Kit because of the company's efforts to improve quality and energy efficiency in its NEEM homes.

The awards are sponsored by the Idaho Energy Division, Washington State University Energy Program, Oregon Department of Energy, and the Building America Industrialized Housing Partnership. Some 21 companies construct manufactured homes within the three-state region.

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NEEM is a cooperative effort between the region's manufactured home industry, the region's utility companies, and the region's state energy offices. The program involves inspection and certification of homes built to the higher Super Good Cents and Energy Star® standards.

"These are the most energy-efficient manufactured homes offered by the industry in the nation," says Bob Minter, senior energy specialist with the Energy Division and Idaho's NEEM program manager.

"More than 150,000 of these energy option upgraded homes have been produced under the program, resulting in lower utility bills and more comfort for the home buyers. It's a very successful cooperative regional program and a win-win for the entire region."

Homes constructed to meet the NEEM standards typically use about 30 percent less energy to heat and cool compared to those built to the minimum standards required by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Sixty Northwest utilities offer cash incentives to homebuyers who purchase NEEM Program homes.

For more information about the NEEM program, consumers should contact the program's regional Hotline at 1-888-355-6277 or access the region's NEEM web site at www.ahousefulofsavings.com.

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